

ATTACHMENT - SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please replace the paragraphs at page 8, lines 11-25 with the following amended paragraphs.

Brief Description of the drawing Drawings

The description of the drawing drawings is intended to be illustrative of the invention, and it is not intended that the invention is limited to the specific features described.

Figure 1 is a process flow diagram in accordance with one aspect of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a graph showing reject sizing;

Figure 3 is a graph relating extraction percentage versus time for a cylinder leach test for a 75 micrometer-1 millimeter reject fraction;

Figure 4 is a graph relating extraction percentage versus time for a cylinder leach test for a 1 millimeter-6 millimeter reject fraction in accordance with the present invention; and

Figure 5 is a graph relating extraction percentage versus operation day for extractions of nickel, iron, cobalt, magnesium, aluminum and manganese saprolite neutralisation column in accordance with the present invention.

Detailed Description

Figure 1 illustrates the process flow diagram of the invention. This shows the preliminary treatment of the laterite ore by first undergoing coarse size reduction in a crusher and then removal of the fines and/or clay, which is typically done by washing,

for example hydraulically washing as part of the beneficiation process. The coarse material (the low grade rejects fraction), after removal of the fines and/or clay materials, is then subjected to heap leaching with acid to provide a pregnant leachate solution. The upgraded laterite fraction together with the fines material, is sent for nickel recovery treatment by pressure acid leaching or atmospheric leaching. The pregnant leachate solution from this process is combined with the leachate solution from the heap leach process for nickel and cobalt recovery by standard known metallurgical routes.

Please delete the figure at page 10, lines 1-5.

Please delete the figures on page 13, lines 1-10, i.e. Figures 3 and 4.

Please delete the figure on page 17, i.e. Figure 5, appearing after Table 9.